Alberta Treasury
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 27 TO MARCH 31, 2000

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month	Month'99/ Month'98	Comments
Rigs Drilling	March			
	337	-16.42%	94.8%	In the first three months of this year, the average number of rigs drilling was 373, up 50%, compared to the same period last year. In February, 403 rigs were drilling, the highest monthly average on record. Rig activity fell off in March to 337 rigs due to seasonal factors.
Industrial Product Price Index	February			
(1992=100)	125.8	0.9%	5.9%	In February, industrial product prices rose at their fastest annual pace since October 1995, fuelled by rising petroleum prices. The year-over-year increase in Canadian product prices was the second highest increase among the G-7 countries, behind France (9.7%). If petroleum and coal product prices were excluded from the producer's price index, the index would have only risen by 2.5%, less than half of the actual increase.
Average Weekly Earnings	January			
(S.A.)				In January, average weekly earnings (AWE) in Alberta rose by 0.3% from December, to the third highest level among provinces, behind Ontario and B.C. On a year-over-year basis, Alberta's AWE grew fourth fastest among provinces behind New Brunswick (3.8%), Newfoundland (3.0%) and Nova Scotia (2.6%).
Alberta	633.76	0.3%	2.4%	
Canada	618.85	0.3%	2.0%	